



# UMPQUA REVIEW

NATIONAL FOREST

QUARTERLY SCHEDULE OF PROPOSED ACTIONS

**JANUARY 2003**

The Schedule of Proposed Actions inside these pages cover environmental analyses in progress on the Umpqua National Forest. This publication is our way of keeping you informed and involved in our plans and progress. We focus these activities on protecting, conserving, using, and restoring forest ecosystems. Each activity lists a contact person if you want additional information or to share ideas.

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) guides us in making informed decisions regarding the environment. Through NEPA, we complete environmental analyses so the public and responsible official for each project are aware of the effects on the environment. The objective of NEPA is to make better decisions and document those decisions. The process is dynamic and flexible. If new information is discovered, we will update the information in this quarterly report.

We hope this publication meets your needs. You will also find it on our Forest's website at [www.fs.fed.us/r6/umpqua](http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/umpqua).

Sincerely,

**James A. Caplan**  
Forest Supervisor



**INSIDE:**

- Forest activities shown by district
- Map of activities
- Decisions made during the last planning quarter

Do you want to receive the next issue of this report via email? Send your email address to [crwalters@fs.fed.us](mailto:crwalters@fs.fed.us).

Do you want your name removed from our mailing list for future issues? Contact Dudley Watson at 541/496-3532 or [dmwatson01@fs.fed.us](mailto:dmwatson01@fs.fed.us).

# Fire Recovery Progresses on Tiller Complex and Apple Fires

## WORST FIRE SEASON IN HISTORY

With over 88,000 acres burned, the 2002 fire season was recorded as the worst fire season in the history of the Umpqua National Forest. Nearly two and a half times more acreage burned in the year 2002 than the total of 37,593 acres burned on the Umpqua National Forest during the previous 63-year span.

## WHAT'S BEEN ACCOMPLISHED IN FIRE REHABILITATION SO FAR?

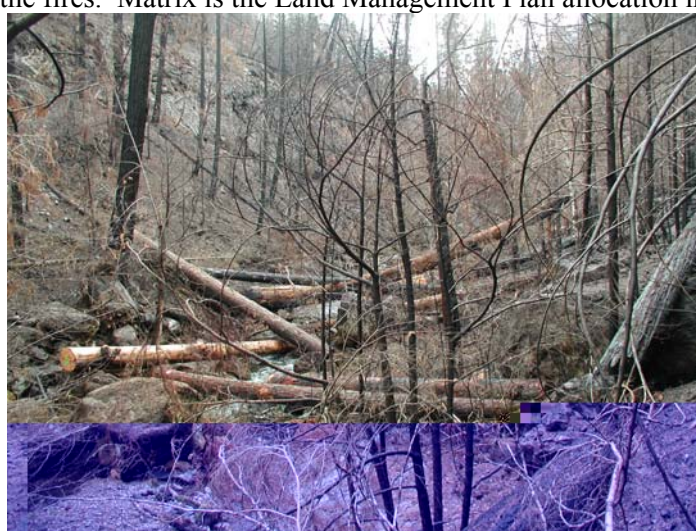
Before the Apple and Tiller Complex Fires were even declared controlled in early October 2002, much had already been accomplished in fire suppression rehabilitation and **Burn Area Emergency Rehabilitation (BAER)**. More than 179 miles of fire line were water barred in both fire areas to reduce soil erosion. The Forest Service also accomplished BAER treatments on 146 miles of roads within the Tiller Complex Fire and on 45 miles of road within the Apple Fire Area. The objective of BAER road treatments is to prevent drainage system failure and includes such measures as construction of grade sags at road stream crossings and the cleaning of inlets and ditches. We anticipate that these measures will help mitigate problems associated with culverts becoming blocked by wildfire-caused debris. Crews are also doing emergency storm patrols this winter to prevent erosion caused by the plugging of road ditches and culverts.

An in-stream rehabilitation project also was completed in the Limpy Creek drainage of the Apple Fire. About 120 pieces of large woody debris were placed in 30 clusters to reduce water velocities, reduce debris flow run-out, and prevent channel degradation, resulting in improved fisheries habitat. In addition, twelve tributary channels also received treatment with the felling of trees into the channel to help slow water velocities and lessen channel erosion.

As part of BAER, hazard trees were felled along 14 miles of Apple Fire roads and 37 miles of Tiller Complex roads. The Forest Service also seeded adjacent to existing noxious weed infestations to restrict spread of weeds. Critical heritage resources were also evaluated and protected in both fire areas.

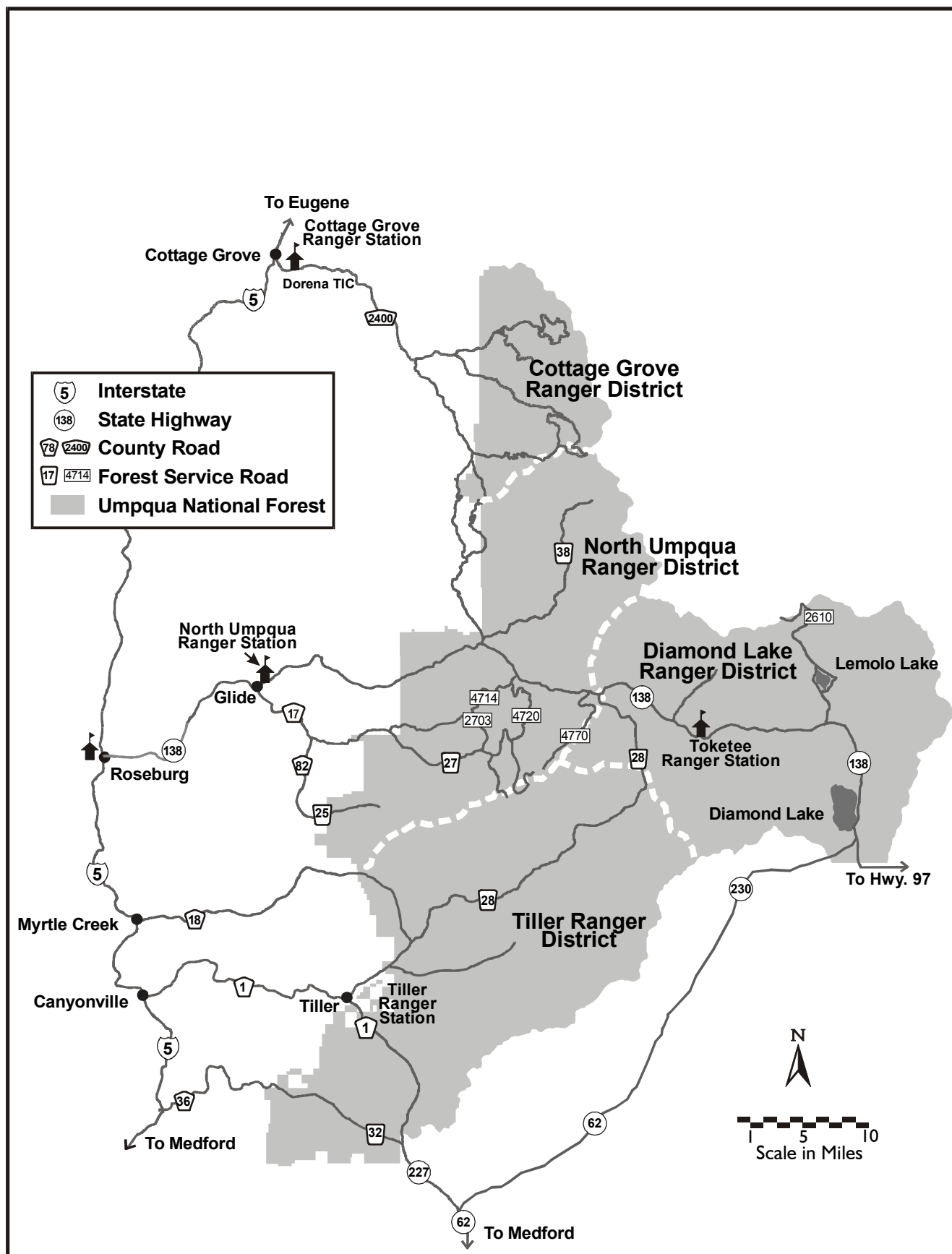
## WHAT ARE FUTURE FIRE RECOVERY PLANS?

Because of the magnitude of the 2002 fires, the huge fire recovery workload, and the limited amount of available resources, Jim Caplan, Forest Supervisor of the Umpqua National Forest has implemented a “staged” fire recovery strategy. In order to achieve results, the Forest Service is **initially** focusing its fire recovery efforts on the Matrix portions of the fires. Matrix is the Land Management Plan allocation in



which the Forest Service is directed to conduct most of its timber harvest, while at the same time assuring appropriate conservation of ecosystems and wildlife habitat. By first deploying the Forest Service's limited resources in Matrix areas of the fires, it is hoped that salvage of a wood commodity, reduction of fuel loads, and restoration of wildlife habitat may all be possible.

Although the Forest Service recognizes the need to assess and possibly implement fire recovery for all the areas that burned even in Late Successional Reserves, more resources and funding are necessary to accomplish this action. We anticipate that as progress on the Matrix areas of the fires is made, fire recovery work may be further expanded into Late Successional Reserve land allocations of the fires. Before any action could occur in the Late Successional Reserve portions of the fires, the Forest Service must first understand



## **SUPERVISOR'S OFFICE**

### **Forest-wide Integrated Noxious Weed Management Project**

**Proposal:** This project would define the integrated weed management strategy for the Forest, including prevention of new infestations, identification of high priority weed infestation areas on the Forest, and recommendations of possible treatments of existing sites. Approximately 88 sites have been identified for treatment. Methods of treatment would include using manual control (hand pulling), applying heated foam to kill above ground weeds, planting native trees or shrubs to shade out the weed species, using herbicide (Picloram) to eliminate weeds; solarization (using black plastic to shade out weeds), and mowing or clipping the weeds. An adaptive management strategy may be developed to control future weed infestations. This project may result in a non-significant, site specific amendment to the Umpqua National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan in order to incorporate an integrated weed management strategy for the Forest.

**Location:** Forest-wide

**Public Input:** Scoping began in October of 1995 with the original project, scoping is being re-initiated on the new proposed action. The Proposed Action was made available in October for review.

**Status:** Re-initiating scoping.

**Projected Decision Date:** FY 2003.

**Contact Person:** Debbie Anderson/Richard Helliwell

### **Forest Plan Amendment – Minerals Standards and Guidelines**

**Proposal:** Amends Northwest Forest Plan Minerals Management-1 Standard and Guideline for the Umpqua National Forest. MM-1 requires a Plan of Operation for any activity within a Riparian Reserve. This Standard and Guideline conflicts with the Code of Federal Regulations. Under the Code of Federal Regulations, District Rangers have the authority to determine whether a Plan of Operation is necessary for activities within Riparian Reserves. The amendment would put the Umpqua National Forest in compliance with the Code of Federal Regulations.

**Location:** Forest-wide

**Public Input:** Scoping began in January of 1998.

**Status:** Input is still being accepted on this project.

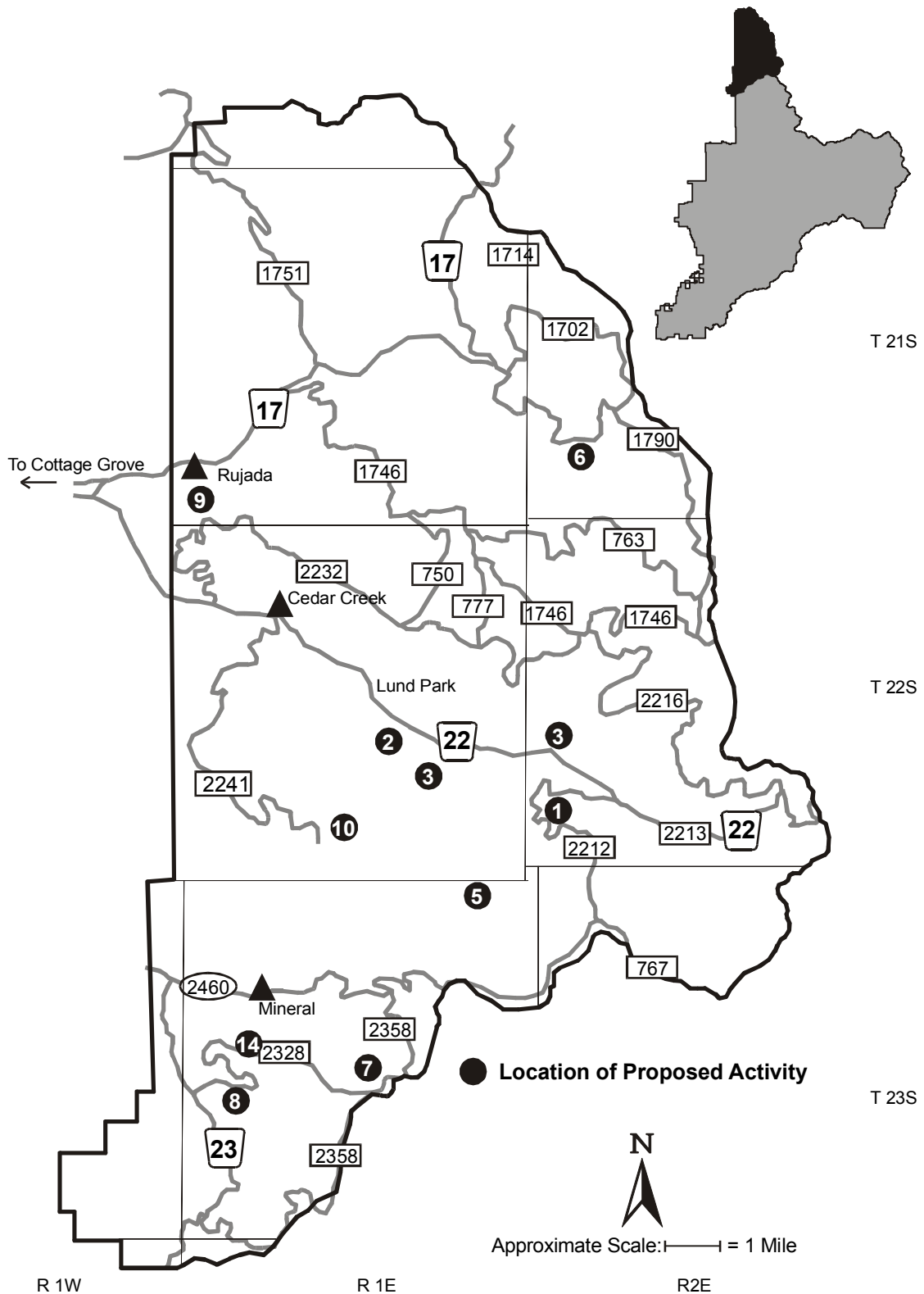
**Projected Decision Date:** This decision is on hold pending input from the Regional Office.

**Contact Person:** Jake O'Dowd

### **Projects with Decision Made During the Previous Quarter**

None at this time

# Cottage Grove Ranger District



1/03

# COTTAGE GROVE RANGER DISTRICT

## Timber Stand Management Projects

### 3 Northnoon Timber Sale

**Proposal:** The proposed action is to harvest timber on approximately 163 acres of National Forest Lands on the Cottage Grove Ranger District and to implement road restoration. The area is matrix designation and is located within the Brice Creek Drainage. The proposal is to partially harvest transitional-aged stands targeting trees in the smaller age classes. Small gaps will be left to enhance wildlife habitat. Other wildlife enhancements include snag creation and bird boxes where appropriate. Additional activities associated with the action may include planting, fuels reduction, prescribed burning and road reconstruction, upgrade and decommissioning.

The need for this timber sale has been established based on the following purposes:

- Provide wood fiber as a commodity to local communities;
- Maintain an environmentally sound and affordable road network;
- Restore native vegetation, and aquatic and wildlife habitat in Matrix, LSR and Riparian allocations;
- Maintain public safety.

**Location:** Brice Creek Watershed. T22S, R1E, Section 25; T22S, R2E, Sections 30 and 31. Project is located within a Matrix land allocation.

**Public Input:** Scoping began with the publication of this project proposal in the July 2002 Umpqua National Forest Schedule of Proposed Actions (SOPA).

**Status:** The environmental document is being prepared for public review prior to decision.

**Projected Decision Date:** March 2003.

**Contact Person:** Terry Fairbanks (541) 767-5040.

### 2 Crawdog Thinning and Restoration

**Proposal:** The proposed action is to harvest timber on approximately 1350 acres of National Forest Lands on the Cottage Grove Ranger District, and to implement prescribed burning, and road and riparian restoration activities. There is a portion of the Fairview Roadless Area within the planning area, although no activities are proposed in this area. The proposal is to thin stands in the 40-80 year age class. Small gaps (2 acres or less in size) would also be created to improve structural and species diversity to enhance wildlife habitat. Other wildlife enhancements include snag creation and placement of bird boxes where appropriate. Additional activities associated with this action may include riparian restoration planting, fuels reduction (such as prescribed burning), and road reconstruction, upgrade and decommissioning.

The need for this timber sale has been established based on the following:

- Maintain and enhance tree growth and stand health;
- Accelerate development of late-successional characteristics;
- Restore native vegetation, and aquatic and wildlife habitat in Matrix and Riparian allocations;
- Reduce ground, intermediate and canopy level fuels to decrease risk of high intensity fire events adjacent to the Forest Boundary and the Fairview Roadless Area;
- Create and maintain fire resilient stands;
- Retain late-successional components to maintain aquatic and terrestrial habitat;
- Improve hydrological function within the analysis area;
- Establish a management control strategy for noxious/invasive weeds;
- Address the reduced road maintenance fund by decommissioning and/or stormproofing specific roads;
- Provide wood fiber as a commodity to the local economy.

**Location:** Brice Creek Watershed. T22S, R1E, Sections 7,8,9,15,16,17,18,19,20,21,22,23,26,27,28,29,30,31,32, and 33. This includes the following drainages: Adams, Donna, Cedar, Crawfish, Dog, Inch, Martin, and Hobo Creek. The project is located within Matrix and Riparian Reserve land allocations.

**Public Input:** Scoping begins with the publication of this project in the January 2003 Schedule of Proposed Actions.

**Status:** Project initiation by formation of interdisciplinary team and start of environmental analysis. Resource information needs are being determined.

**Project Decision Date:** June 2004.

**Contact Person:** Susan Johnson (541) 767-5044.

## **6 Precommercial Thinning 2003**

**Proposal:** Conduct pre-commercial thinning on 300 acres. The project areas were originally planted 13 to 20 years ago. The purpose of the treatment is to distribute the growth potential of the site to the most vigorous growing trees by reducing stocking levels to a prescribed level consistent with the Forest Land and Resource Management Plan guidelines.

**Location:** District-wide. Project is located within Matrix and Riparian Reserve land allocations.

**Public Input:** Scoping began in October 2001. Input is still being accepted on this project.

**Status:** The project is currently under review by District staff specialists. Issues associated with the project are being identified.

**Projected Decision Date:** May 2003.

**Contact Person:** Paul Higgins (541) 767-5043

## **Watershed Restoration and Improvement Projects**

### **4 Unique Site Restoration**

**Proposal:** Restore unique habitat sites damaged by vehicles and past management practices. Activities include obliterating skid roads, removing unwanted vegetation, restoring native plants, stormproofing and decommissioning roads, and other site improvement activities.

**Location:** District-wide. Fifty sites have been identified in potential need of restoration. Project is located within Matrix and Riparian Reserve land allocations.

**Public Input:** Scoping began in October 2001. Input is still being accepted on this project.

**Status:** Analysis of environmental effects are being documented for public review prior to a decision.

**Project Decision Date:** April 2003.

**Contact Person:** Melissa Kirkland (541) 767-5045.

## **Facilities – Repair and Development**

### **9 Rujada Campground Vegetation Management Project**

**Proposal:** To apply a density management treatment by removing specific trees within Rujada Campground, create 2-6 new campsites, redesign several existing camp sites to accommodate RV users, plant trees and shrubs, and remove hazardous trees and/or limbs. The purpose of this project is to promote a healthy timber stand within the campground, reduce insect and disease susceptibility, promote species and structural diversity, retain or enhance existing campsite characteristics, reduce potential hazards to users and enhance recreational experiences.

**Location:** Layng Creek Watershed. Rujada Campground, T21S, R1E, Sec. 31. Project is located within a Riparian Reserve.

**Public Input:** Scoping began in March 1999. Input is being accepted on this project.

**Status:** Analysis is ongoing.

**Projected Decision Date:** September 2003.

**Contact Person:** Cindy Pack (541) 767-5015.

### **6 Waterfall Trail CIP Improvement**

**Proposal:** Reconstruct approximately 0.8 miles of the Parker Falls Trail #1415, including construction of 0.2 miles of relocated trail. In addition, approximately 0.8 miles of Pinard Falls Trail #1593 would be reconstructed and/or relocated. Any portions of trail that are abandoned due to relocation would be closed and restored as needed. This project will bring the above two trails to a useable hiker standard.

**Location:** Parker Falls Trail #1415 is an existing maintained trail in the Brice Creek corridor located in sections 29 and 30 in T22S, R2E. Pinard Falls Trail #1593 is an unmaintained and incomplete trail located in the Layng Creek watershed, T21S, R2E, sections 30 and 31.

**Public Input:** Scoping will begin with the publication of this project in the January 2003 Schedule of Proposed Actions.

**Status:** Project initiation by formation of interdisciplinary team and start of an environmental analysis. Resource information needs are being determined.



**Projected Decision Date:** September 2003.

**Contact Person:** Cindy Pack (541) 767-5015.

## **Mining Projects**

### **7 Star Group Lode Claim**

**Proposal:** To conduct tunneling in one lode claim and mineral exploration in two claims and to process the mined ore.

**Location:** Sharps Creek watershed, T23S, R1E, Sec. 21 & 22. Project is within Matrix and Riparian Reserve lands.

**Public Input:** Scoping has been re-initiated through the publishing of the January 2003 Schedule of Proposed Actions.

**Status:** The deciding officer has decided to withdraw the May 20, 2002 Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact for the Gold Star Environmental Assessment. A new Environmental Assessment will be available for comment in the near future.

**Projected Decision Date:** March 2003.

**Contact Person:** Ken Kimberling (541) 767-5010

### **8 Climax I, II, III Placer Claims**

**Proposal:** To conduct dredging and sluicing operations in Puddin Rock Creek.

**Location:** Sharps Creek watershed, T23S, R1E, Sec. 19. Project is within a Riparian Reserve.

**Public Input:** Scoping has been re-initiated through the publishing of the January 2003 Schedule of Proposed Actions.

**Status:** The deciding officer has decided to withdraw the October 7, 2002 Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact for the Climax I, II, & III Environmental Assessment. A new Environmental Assessment will be available for comment in the near future.

**Projected Decision Date:** March 2003.

**Contact Person:** Ken Kimberling (541) 767-5010

### **14 Birds Nest Lode Claims**

**Proposal:** To conduct tunneling and exploration in one lode claim, and to process the mined ore.

**Location:** Sharps Creek watershed, T23S, R1E, Sec. 17 and 20. Project is located within Matrix and Riparian Reserve lands.

**Public Input:** Scoping has been re-initiated through the publishing of the January 2003 Schedule of Proposed Actions.

**Status:** The deciding officer has decided to withdraw the October 7, 2002 Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact for the Birds Nest Environmental Assessment. A new Environmental Assessment will be available for comment in the near future.

**Projected Decision Date:** March 2003.

**Contact Person:** Ken Kimberling (541) 767-5010

## **Projects Dropped From Consideration from the Previous Quarter**

None at this time.

## **Projects with Decisions in the Previous Quarter**

### **10 Utopia Lode Claim**

**Proposal:** Conduct tunneling of one lode claim. Ore will be processed off-site.

**Location:** Brice Creek Watershed, T22S, R1E, Sec. 34. Project is located within Matrix lands.

**Public Input:** Input on this project has concluded.

**Status:** A Plan of Operation for the Utopia Lode Claim will be implemented.

**Decision Date:** December 30, 2002.

**Contact Person:** Ken Kimberling (541) 767-5010.

# Diamond Lake Ranger District



Location of Proposed Activity

DIAMOND LAKE RANGER DISTRICT

- 515 acres of natural fuel treatment (underburn);
- 5.4 miles of new system road construction;
- 3.5 miles of temporary road construction and subsequent obliteration;
- 12 miles of road decommissioning;
- 30.5 miles of road reconstruction;
- 2 acres of permanent helicopter landing construction;
- 91 acres of subsoiling within existing plantations.

**Location:** T25S, R5.5E and R6E; T25.5S, R5.5E and R6E; T26S, R5E, R5.5E, and R6E; T27S, R5E, R5.5E, and R6E; T28S, R5.5E.

**Public Input:** The scoping period began with the mailing of the April 1999 Schedule of Proposed Actions. An open house was held at the Roseburg Library and a field trip was held in June of 1999. Another open house was held on April 24 at the Umpqua Valley Arts Center from 4pm to 7pm, to inform the public on recently developed alternatives.

**Status:** Draft Environmental Impact Statement to be published in January 2003.

**Projected Decision Date:** March 2003-Record of Decision.

**Contact Person:** Pat Williams

## 6 Fish Creek Watershed Projects

**Purpose and Need:** This project would implement recommendations from the Fish Creek Watershed Analysis. Specifically, this project proposes to approximate natural disturbance processes such as large scale disturbance (stand replacement fire), light ground fires and insect attacks, and localized natural disturbances caused by small lightning fires, insects, and root disease, through even and uneven aged silvicultural prescriptions, while meeting Forest Plan probable sale quantity objectives for matrix lands. Additional projects are designed to improve water quality through road reconstruction, road decommissioning, rehabilitation of soils through subsoiling, spring rehabilitation, trailhead relocation, in-stream wood placement; reduce fire hazard by reintroducing fire into the ecosystem; improve long term site productivity of managed stands that have been adversely affected by past management practices, through subsoiling of main skid trails and temporary haul roads; precommercial thin overstocked managed stands to improve health and vigor; and wildlife enhancement projects.

**Proposal:** The proposal includes the following activities:

- 422 acres of regeneration harvest;
- 834 acres of commercial thinning;
- 145 acres of uneven aged management prescriptions;
- 5 timber sales are planned to be sold in 2002 and 2003;
- 700 acres of natural fuel treatment (underburn);
- 3.5 miles of temporary road construction and subsequent obliteration;
- 35.2 miles of road decommissioning;
- 61 miles of road reconstruction/maintenance;
- 12 acres of permanent helicopter landing construction;
- Relocation of three trail heads;
- Wildlife enhancement projects;
- Rock source development;
- Spring rehabilitation;
- 1130 acres of subsoiling within existing plantations;
- 2644 acres of precommercial thinning;
- 8 miles of in-stream wood placement;

**Location:** T26S, R3E; T27S, R3E, R4E, and R5E; T28S, R3E, R4E, and R5E

**Public Input:** The scoping period began with the mailing of the April 2001 Schedule of Proposed Actions and the publishing of the Notice of Intent in the Federal Register. An open house was held at the Douglas County Library on May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2001 and a field trip was held on June 9<sup>th</sup> 2001.

**Status:** Alternative Development.

**Projected Decision Date:** January 2004 - Record of Decision.

**Contact Person:** Pat Williams



## 20 Long Term Soil Productivity Projects

**Purpose and Need #1:** The purpose of the following proposed actions is to provide the opportunity to study and evaluate how changes in site organic matter and soil porosity affect fundamental site processes controlling forest health, productivity, and sustainability, as outlined in the National Long-term Soil Productivity Study (LTSP) Plan. The Upper Clearwater Watershed Analysis, page 127, recommended “The Long Term Soil Productivity Study should continue to be funded and implemented on the District in order to learn more about the effects of compaction on site productivity.”

**Proposal:** The proposal includes the following activities:

- Replace plots 3, 15, and 16;
- Increase plot buffer size to a minimum of 20 meters and recruit snags for wildlife;
- Maintain complete and continuous vegetation control until crown closure on half of each study plot;

**Purpose and Need #2:** The purpose of the following proposed actions are to provide the opportunity to study and evaluate the effectiveness of restoration techniques on detrimentally impacted soils, as defined in the Soil Organic Amendment Restoration Study (SOAR) Plan.

**Proposal:** The proposal includes the following activities:

- Implement and monitor the study treatments based on the study design;
- Subsoil for compaction, land apply a Class A biosolid and chipped slash for soil conditioning, and reforest the study plots with a mixture of Douglas-fir and ponderosa pine;

**Location:** T27S, R4E, Sections 3, 7, 9, 10.

**Public Input:** The scoping period began with the mailing of the January 2001 Schedule of Proposed Actions. **Status:** Alternative development.

**Projected Decision Date:** The project is being dropped due to lack of funding.

**Contact Person:** Jim Archuleta or Rick Abbott

## Deferred Road Maintenance Clearing

**Proposal:** Clearing of smaller trees and brush along the primary road system to achieve safety standards and to provide defensible potential firelines. The growth of vegetation along these roads that are open to the public has limited sight distances and clear passing areas. In addition, cleared roads provide safe and effective firelines in the event of a large fire. Clearing will be done up to 30 feet from the edges of roadways. A commercial timber sale, or sales, will be used to accomplish the work, including slash disposal. All trees under 16” dbh and tall brush will be cleared. Slash will be mulched in place, chipped, or piled and burned.

**Location:** Multiple locations on the Diamond Lake District.

**Public Input:** The scoping period began with the mailing of the October 2002 Schedule of Proposed Actions.

**Status:** Proposed Action.

**Projected Decision Date:** 2003, Decision Notice.

**Contact Person:** Steve Nelson

## **Facilities – Repair and Development**

### **15 Diamond Drive Reconstruction (formerly West Cascade Exploration Route Link)**

**Purpose and Need:** This project would provide a safe, scenic route from Oakridge to Highway 138 for passenger cars, bicycles, and RV's that would meet the criteria for designation as a Scenic Byway. The byway would expand recreational driving opportunities and tourism within the concept of a scenic "less than 65 mph" route from Estacada to Ashland.

**Proposal:** Convert single lane routes (portions of roads 2154, 6000-770 and 6000-700) on the Willamette and Umpqua National Forests to double lane paved. Complete geotechnical investigation, design, construction, striping, and traffic control devices. Existing partnerships between the Forest Service, Oregon Department of Transportation and Federal Highway Administration are coordinating and funding completion of gateway and information portals at Estacada, McKenzie Ranger Station, Blue River and Westfir.

**Location:** Willamette side – T24S, R5E, Sec. 21,22,26,27,35, & 36. T25S, R5E, Sec. 1,12, & 13. T25S, R5 1/2E, Sec. 4,5,9,10,15,16, & 17.

Umpqua side – T25S, R5E, Sec. 13,24,25,36, & 35.

T25 1/2S, R5E, Sec. 36. T26S, R5E, Sec. 1. T26S, R6E, Sec. 6,7,8, & 17.

**Public Input:** The scoping period began with the mailing of the April 2001 Schedule of Proposed Actions.

**Status:** Alternative development.

**Projected Decision Date:** March 2003 – Decision Notice.

**Contact Person:** Steve Nelson or Keith Bond

### **7 Boat Ramp Extensions**

**Proposal:** The proposed project is to extend the C and M Loop boat ramps in Diamond Lake Campground. The existing ramps are too short to accommodate many boat trailers and often trailer wheels drop off the end of the ramp. The project would extend the 2 boat ramps in Diamond Lake Campground eight feet each by adding 2 four feet pre-cast concrete sections to each ramp. Very little ground disturbance is anticipated. The proposed completion date is June 2003.

**Location:** T28S, R5.51/2E, Sec.9 &16.

**Public Input:** The scoping period began with the mailing of the October 2001 Schedule of Proposed Actions. **Status:** Analysis proceeding.

**Projected Decision Date:** 2003, Decision Memo.

**Contact Person:** John Wallig.

### **8 Warm Springs Falls**

**Proposal:** Under this proposal a safety railing with viewing platform would be installed on the Warm Springs Trail. In addition the trail would be brought to Accessible Standards. A parking area, toilet, and trail bridge would be necessary to meet these standards. This site is included in the UNF waterfalls brochure.

**Location:** This project is located in T25S R5E section 32

**Public Input:** Scoping began with the mailing of the April 2002 Schedule of Proposed Actions.

**Status:** Proposed Action.

**Projected Decision Date:** 2003 – Decision Memo.

**Contact Person:** Mike Kinney

### **Special Use Permits**

### **12 Diamond Lake Summer Homes**

**Proposal:** Project is within the Diamond Lake Summer Home Tract for activities requested by permit holders for construction projects within their permit area. Requested projects are typically additions to existing cabins, construction of storage sheds, less than 130 square feet, and repair of septic or water systems.

**Location:** T28S, R5E, Sec. 1 and 12.

**Public Input:** The scoping period began with the mailing of the January 2000 Schedule of Proposed Actions.

**Status:** The project is in the developmental stage.

**Projected Decision Date:** 2003 - Decision Memo.

**Contact Person:** John Wallig

### **30 ODOT Storage Tank**

**Proposal:** The purpose and need for the project is for storage of road de-icing compound at the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) Lemolo Maintenance Station. The compound is to be used for winter highway maintenance. The proposal is to construct a pad and spill containment area for a 6000-gallon tank for the storage of magnesium chloride de-icing solution. **Location:** T26S, R5½E Sec. 36.

**Public Input:** The scoping period began with the mailing of the July 2000 Schedule of Proposed Actions.

**Status:** Proposed action.

**Projected Decision Date:** 2003.

**Contact Person:** John Wallig

### **Restoration and Improvement**

#### **4 Rush Skeleton Weed Removal**

**Purpose and Need:** Rush Skeleton Weed (*Chondrila juncea*), a high priority noxious weed on the Umpqua National Forest, has infested a 30-acre plantation in the Copeland Creek watershed. This species has high potential to rapidly spread throughout other nearby ecosystems like Oak Flats.

**Proposal:** The proposal is to interplant the plantation with quick growing, densely canopied trees which in theory will shade out the Rush Skeleton Weed over time. In addition it is proposed to decommission the last 0.7 miles of the 700 rd. and the 720 rd. that acted as logging operation roads in the 30-acre unit.

**Location:** T26S, R02E section 24.

**Public Input:** The scoping period began with the mailing of the October 2001 Schedule of Proposed Actions.

**Status:** Archaeological surveys scheduled.

**Projected Decision Date:** 2003 – Decision Memo.

**Contact Person:** Clint Emerson

#### **Mechanical Noxious Weed Treatment**

**Proposal:** Mechanical treatment using chainsaws and weed-whackers is proposed for certain Scotch Broom (*Cytisus scoparius*) and Meadow Knapweed (*Centaurea x patensis*) sites on the Diamond Lake Ranger District.

**Location:** Multiple locations across the Diamond Lake District.

**Public Input:** The scoping period begins with the mailing of the January 2003 Schedule of Proposed Actions.

**Status:** Proposed action.

**Projected Decision Date:** March 2003 – Decision Memo.

**Contact Person:** Clint Emerson

#### **District Non-Conifer Revegetation**

**Proposal:** To enhance native plant communities, restore Sensitive species habitat, enhance wildlife communities, prevent erosion, provide competition to noxious weeds, improve aesthetics and reclaim certain pieces of disturbed and fallow land by planting native, locally collected bare-root and containerized plant material. In addition, broadcast seeding of grass and herbaceous species would occur.

**Location:** Multiple locations across the Diamond Lake District.

**Public Input:** The scoping period begins with the mailing of the January 2003 Schedule of Proposed Actions.

**Status:** Proposed action.

**Projected Decision Date:** March 2003 – Decision Memo.

**Contact Person:** Clint Emerson

#### **Wildlife Habitat Improvement Projects for 2003**

**Proposal:** Several small mitigation and habitat enhancement projects are proposed within the District. Proposed treatment include forage seeding or plantings to improve big game habitat conditions, prescribed burning, road closures, down wood and snag augmentation, mechanical weed treatment, mechanical regeneration of browse species, wetland enhancements and restoration, and conifer control in meadows.

**Location:** Multiple locations across the Diamond Lake District.

**Public Input:** The scoping period began with the mailing of the October 2002 Schedule of Proposed Actions.

**Status:** Scoping.

**Projected Decision Date:** February 2003, Decision Memo

**Contact Person:** Jeff Bohler

### **Diamond Lake Ranger District Pre-commercial Thinning**

**Proposal:** This project will precommercial thin approximately 2426 acres of overstocked managed stands in matrix lands and 799 acres within the late successional reserve allocation in Copeland Creek over the next five years.

**Location:** Multiple locations across the Diamond Lake District.

**Public Input:** The scoping period begins with the mailing of the January 2003 Schedule of Proposed Actions.

**Status:** Proposed action.

**Projected Decision Date:** May 2003 – Decision Memo.

**Contact Person:** Randy Menke

### **Projects Dropped From Consideration from the Previous Quarter**

None at this time.

### **Projects with Decisions Made During the Previous Quarter**

#### **Gaging Station Installation**

**Proposal:** The Diamond Lake Ranger District, Umpqua National Forest, proposes to approve the installation or improvement of seven gaging stations to monitor instream flow in the North Umpqua Hydroelectric project bypass reaches.

Each gage location has unique installation requirements, with some being new locations and others requiring improvement on existing gages. New bypass reach gaging stations would be installed at the Clearwater 2, Lemolo 2, Slide Creek, and Toketee bypass reaches. Soda Springs, Lemolo 1, and Clearwater 1 have existing gaging stations that would be improved.

Data collection would conform to the United States Geological Survey (USGS) standards. Collection standards and gage locations were developed by an interagency group of Federal and State agencies, and PacifiCorp.

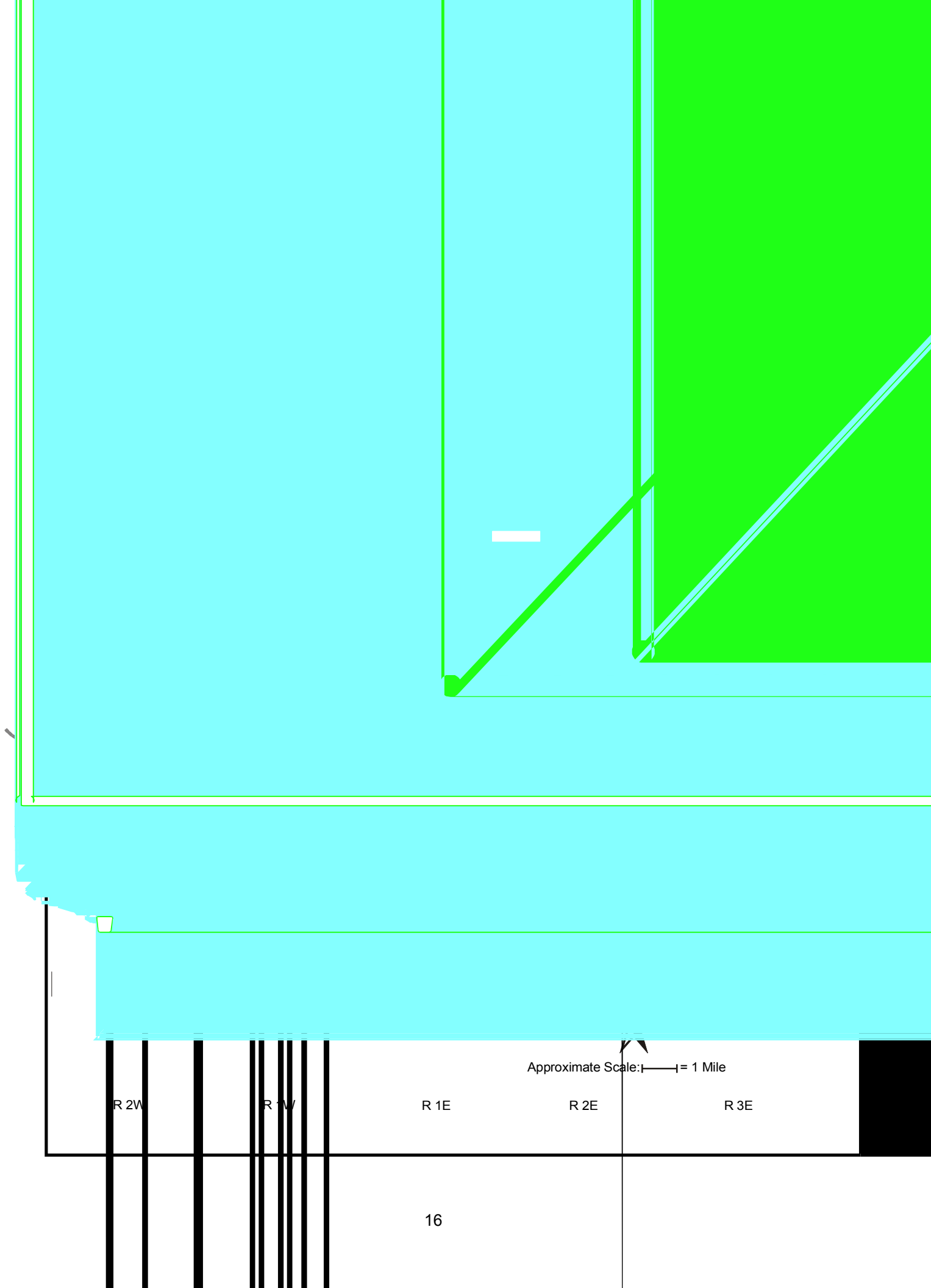
**Location:** Seven locations across the Diamond Lake District.

**Public Input:** The scoping period began with the mailing of the October 2002 Schedule of Proposed Actions.

**Status:** The project is ready to implement.

**Decision Date:** The Decision memo was signed on November 9, 2002.

**Contact Person:** Craig Street



Approximate Scale: 1 Mile

R 2W

R 4W

R 1E

R 2E

R 3E



# NORTH UMPQUA RANGER DISTRICT

## Timber Stand Management Projects

### 1 PJ Timber Sale and Project Area

**Proposal:** This project would implement recommendations from the Little River Watershed Analysis. Specifically, this project proposes thinning in stands prone to fire; enhancing stand growth by thinning in order to increase resiliency from snowdown and blowdown; retaining late seral characteristics in older stands by using uneven aged management; and improving water quality through road restoration and decommissioning. The proposal includes the following activities:

- Uneven-aged management of 400 acres of late seral forest. This action includes proportional thinning, thinning from below, and limits the harvest of the largest tree size classes.
- Thin and treat fuel accumulations on approximately 95 acres of previously unmanaged forest.
- Place large wood in the lower stretches of Pinnacle Creek and Junction Creek.
- Place large wood in the riparian areas of previously managed stands.
- Decommission approximately 8 miles of existing road.
- Stormproof the haul routes within and outside of the project area.

**Location:** The Little River Adaptive Management Area, specifically in the Pinnacle and Junction Creek subdrainages, T27S, R01E.

**Public Input:** Scoping began with the mailing of the July 1998 Schedule of Proposed Actions. Input is still being accepted on this project.

**Status:** Analysis is proceeding and surveys are underway. Awaiting Biological Opinions from NMFS.

**Projected Decision Date:** The Environmental Assessment may be available for public comment in 2004 following completion of surveys in FY 2003.

**Contact Person:** Barbara Fontaine/Debbie Anderson

### 2 Mjollnir Timber Sale and Project Area

**Proposal:** This project would implement recommendations from the Little River Watershed Analysis. Specifically, this project proposes thinning in stands prone to fire; enhancing young stands by thinning and pruning in order to promote tree growth and wood quality; and conducting watershed restoration activities such as road restoration and decommissioning, instream wood placement, and noxious weed control in order to improve watershed conditions. The proposal includes the following activities:

- Uneven-aged management of approximately 235 acres of late seral forest. This action includes proportional thinning, thinning from below, and limits the harvest of the largest tree size classes.
- Thin and treat fuel accumulations on approximately 350 acres of previously unmanaged forest.
- Decommission and close 6.2 miles of existing road, and stormproof and close 6.0 miles of existing road.
- Stormproof the haul routes within and outside of the project area.
- Place large wood in ½ mile of Emile Creek and adjacent riparian plantations.

**Location:** The Little River Adaptive Management Area, specifically in the Lower Emile, Taft Creek, Little Taft Creek subdrainages, T26S, R02W.

**Public Input:** Scoping began with the mailing of the October 1997 Schedule of Proposed Actions. Input is still being accepted on project.

**Status:** Analysis is proceeding; project was submitted for consultation. Awaiting Biological Opinions from NMFS.

**Projected Decision Date:** The Environmental Assessment may be available for public comment in FY 2003 following completion of surveys in FY 2003.

**Contact Person:** Barbara Fontaine

### 3 Exodus Timber Sale and Project Area

**Proposal:** This project would implement recommendations from the Little River Watershed Analysis. Specifically, this project proposes to: retain late-seral characteristics in older stands by using uneven-aged management; maintain at risk late-seral habitat by partially harvesting fire prone areas; accelerate development of late-seral habitat by thinning in second growth stands; and restore natural processes and features including reintroducing fire into the ecosystem, promoting pine health and general forest health, maintaining and enhancing unique habitats, and maintaining late

successional refugia and riparian connectivity. The proposal also includes conducting watershed restoration activities such as road improvement and decommissioning, instream wood placement, and noxious weed control in order to improve watershed conditions.

The proposal includes the following activities:

- Uneven-aged management on approximately 1,019 acres of late-seral forest. This action includes proportional thinning and thinning from below, and also limits the harvest of the largest tree size classes.
- Even-aged management on approximately 42 acres of late-seral forest.
- Thinning on approximately 241 acres of mid seral forest.
- Treating fuel accumulations and/or logging slash.
- Underburning on approximately 135 acres to reduce hazardous fuels.
- Decommissioning and closure of approximately 11.5 miles of existing road.
- Stormproofing the haul routes within and outside of the project area.
- Placing large wood both instream and within riparian areas of Upper Black Creek and/or Dutch Creek.

**Location:** This proposal is in the Little River Adaptive Management Area, specifically in the Upper Black Creek and Dutch Creek subdrainages, T27S, R01W.

**Public Input:** The scoping period began with the mailing of the October 1999 Schedule of Proposed Actions. The Notice of Intent was published on August 20, 2001 in the Federal Register. A public meeting was held at the Douglas County Library on October 24, 2001.

**Status:** Issues and Alternatives are being developed; consultation is being initiated.

**Projected Decision Date:** October 2003 – Record of Decision.

**Contact Person:** Debbie Anderson

## **Mining Projects**

None at this time.

## **Facilities – Repair and Development**

### **10 Steamboat Falls Vault Toilet Replacements and Fence Replacement**

**Proposal:** The proposal is to replace old (and leaky) 12A vault toilets with CXT concrete vault toilets at the Steamboat Falls Campground. The work would be completed using heavy equipment. An additional area approximately 6 by 6 feet would be disturbed around each toilet during installation. A Decision Memo was signed on March 22, 2001 and April 26, 2001 for 5 other toilets. A metal fence that will replace the existing split rail fence to improve visitor safety has been added to the proposal.

**Location:** Steamboat Falls Campground.

**Public Input:** The scoping period began with the mailing of the July 2000 Schedule of Proposed Actions.

**Status:** The Decision Memo will be signed following completion of archaeological surveys at Steamboat Falls.

**Projected Decision Date:** March 2003 – Decision Memo.

**Contact Person:** Debbie Anderson

### **28 Vault Toilet Replacement at Apple Creek Campground**

**Proposal:** The proposal is to replace three old 12A vault toilets with one new CXT concrete vault toilet at Apple Creek Campground. The work would be completed using heavy equipment. The old vaults would be removed and the vault pumped and filled in on site. A new CXT concrete vault would be placed between the campground road and Hwy. 138.

**Location:** Apple Creek Campground, T26S, R1E, Sec. 14.

**Public Input:** The scoping period began with the mailing of the October 2001 Schedule of Proposed Actions.

**Status:** Archaeological evaluations are being conducted.

**Projected Decision Date:** October 2003 – Decision Memo.

**Contact Person:** Wayne Brady

## **North Umpqua and Steamboat Creek Campground Improvements**

**Proposal:** The proposal is to replace and/or enhance facilities at five heavily used campgrounds within the North Umpqua River and Steamboat Creek corridors. The project would improve the recreation facilities by repairing and replacing 30-year old, failing components of the campground infrastructure. Components of the project include replacing and repairing tables, vehicle barriers, leveling tent pads, waste water collection basins, camping spurs, walking trails and walkways, garbage can pads, solar panels, diversion ditches and other miscellaneous structures within the campgrounds.

**Location:** Horseshoe Bend, Apple Creek, Island, Steamboat Falls, and Boulder Flat Campgrounds.

**Public Input:** The scoping period began with the mailing of the October 2001 Schedule of Proposed Actions.

**Status:** Biological Evaluations are being conducted.

**Projected Decision Date:** March 2003 – Decision Memo.

**Contact Person:** Jerry Harryman

## **31 Boulder Flat Campground Modifications for Whitewater Rafting**

**Proposal:** The project would modify portions of the Boulder Flat Campground to improve recreation opportunities and safety for whitewater rafters and to lessen conflicts between boaters and campers within the campground. Modifications would include improving the launch site, creating changing rooms, turning existing campsites into parking or staging areas, and installing signs for educating users. The area is located within the riparian reserve and 100 year floodplain of the North Umpqua Highway.

**Location:** Boulder Flat Campground; T26S, R02E, Sec. 13.

**Public Input:** The scoping period began with the mailing of the April 2002 Schedule of Proposed Actions.

**Status:** The public comment period ended on December 2, 2002; analyzing comments.

**Projected Decision Date:** January 2003.

**Contact Person:** Barbara Fontaine

## **Special Use Permits**

None at this time.

## **Watershed Restoration and Improvement Projects**

### **34 District Reforestation Project**

**Proposal:** The propose and need of this project is to implement reforestation projects on the North Umpqua Ranger District. The project will take place within the vicinity of the Apple Fire and in the Little River AMA. Planting sites occur within all land allocations. The project is needed to reestablish native vegetation on previously planted sites that were burned by fires during the summer of 2002. Approximately 750 to 800 acres are planned for reforestation, which may occur over several planting season.

**Location:** Limpy Creek, Bachelor Creek and the Fairy Creek areas that were affected by the Apple Fire and Black Creek.

**Public Input:** The scoping period begins with the mailing of the January 2003 Umpqua National Forest Schedule of Proposed Actions.

**Status:** Scoping for issues; completing archaeological surveys.

**Project Decision Date:** January 2003 - Decision Memo.

**Contact Person:** Jim Kaineg

### **30 Steamboat Creek Watershed Restoration Project**

**Proposal:** The purpose and need for this project is to implement restoration projects that move the Steamboat Creek watershed toward the desired condition: placing large wood into approximately 16 miles of streams; improving riparian conditions by pulling or felling existing trees into the riparian corridor; and improving 86 miles of roads that are part of the inventoried road system, decommissioning 53 miles of roads that are part of the inventoried road system, decommissioning 10.5 miles of roads that are not part of the inventoried road system, and improving less than ½ mile of road that is not part of the inventoried road system and adding it to the inventoried road system. System roads are those that are part of the Forest Development Transportation Plan. This project will implement the Forest Service Road Management Policy.

**Location:** Steamboat Creek Watershed; includes portions of T23S-25S, and R01E-03E.

**Public Input:** Scoping began with the mailing of the April 2002 Schedule of Proposed Actions.

**Status:** Developing Issues and Alternatives

**Projected Decision Date:** FY 2003.

**Contact Person:** Ray Davis

## **Stand Improvement Projects**

None at this time.

## **Projects Dropped From Consideration from the Previous Quarter**

### **33 Illahee Flats Meadow Special Use Permit Re-issuance**

**Proposal:** The proposal was to issue the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife a special use permit to continue working in conjunction with the Forest Service in managing the meadow at Illahee Flats for big game foraging habitat. A review of the permit regulations shows that a special use permit is not warranted. In addition, Illahee Flats was used as fire camp during the summer of 2002. The meadow was plowed and seeded as part of fire rehabilitation efforts. In addition, this project is no longer “ripe” for decision as the meadow will not be treated for approximately 4 more years.

**Location:** Illahee Flats, T26S, R2E, Sec. 21.

**Public Input:** The scoping period began with the mailing of the July 2002 Schedule of Proposed Actions.

**Status:** The project is being dropped.

**Contact Person:** Debbie Anderson

### **26 Fire Warehouse Improvements at North Umpqua Ranger District**

**Proposal:** The proposal is to reconstruct and improve the existing warehouse at the North Umpqua Ranger District to accommodate firefighting vehicles, equipment, and staff. The existing building would be remodeled to accommodate current and future needs and would be reconstructed to ADA standards. The warehouse is an existing facility located at the North Umpqua Ranger Station.

**Location:** T26S, R3W Sec. 19.

**Public Input:** Scoping began with the mailing of the October 2001 Schedule of Proposed Actions.

**Status:** The project is being dropped due to lack of funding.

**Contact Person:** Tim Pratt

### **27 Red Butte Gate**

**Proposal:** The project would place a gate on Road 2701-190, restricting access to the top of Red Butte. The gate would help prevent further vandalism to communication facilities and the fire lookout located on the Red Butte summit. Minor brush cutting may be required, but no trees would be removed.

**Location:** Red Butte summit; T28S, R02W, Sec. 1.

**Public Input:** The scoping period began with the mailing of the October 2001 Schedule of Proposed Actions.

**Status:** The project is being dropped due to lack of funding.

**Contact Person:** Debbie Anderson



## **Projects with Decisions Made During the Previous Quarter**

### **Pre-Commercial Thinning**

**Proposal:** The purposes of these projects are to reduce tree stocking in young tree plantations. Plantations occur in all land allocations. The purpose of these projects is to maintain optimal growth and/or to encourage species and spacing diversity in existing managed stands. Slash generated during precommercial thinning would also be treated by chipping, piling, and/or burning in order to reduce existing and created fuel hazards. In total, approximately 2000 acres of young plantations would be thinned. Slash disposal may occur (dependant on funding and the amount of slash created) on approximately 6000 additional acres. These projects would occur over a 5 to 10 year time period.

**Location:** District-wide.

**Public Input:** The scoping period began with the mailing of the October 2001 Schedule of Proposed Actions.

**Status:** Project is ready to implement.

**Decision Date:** November 8, 2002 – Decision Memo.

**Contact Person:** Ron Campbell

### **North Umpqua Ranger Station HVAC System Replacement**

**Proposal:** The proposal is to replace the existing heating and air conditioning system at the North Umpqua Ranger Station. The current system frequently fails and is continuously being repaired. The proposed replacement system would require excavation of fill dirt and shrubs from alongside the Ranger Station.

**Location:** North Umpqua Ranger Station in Glide, T26S, R3W, Sec. 19.

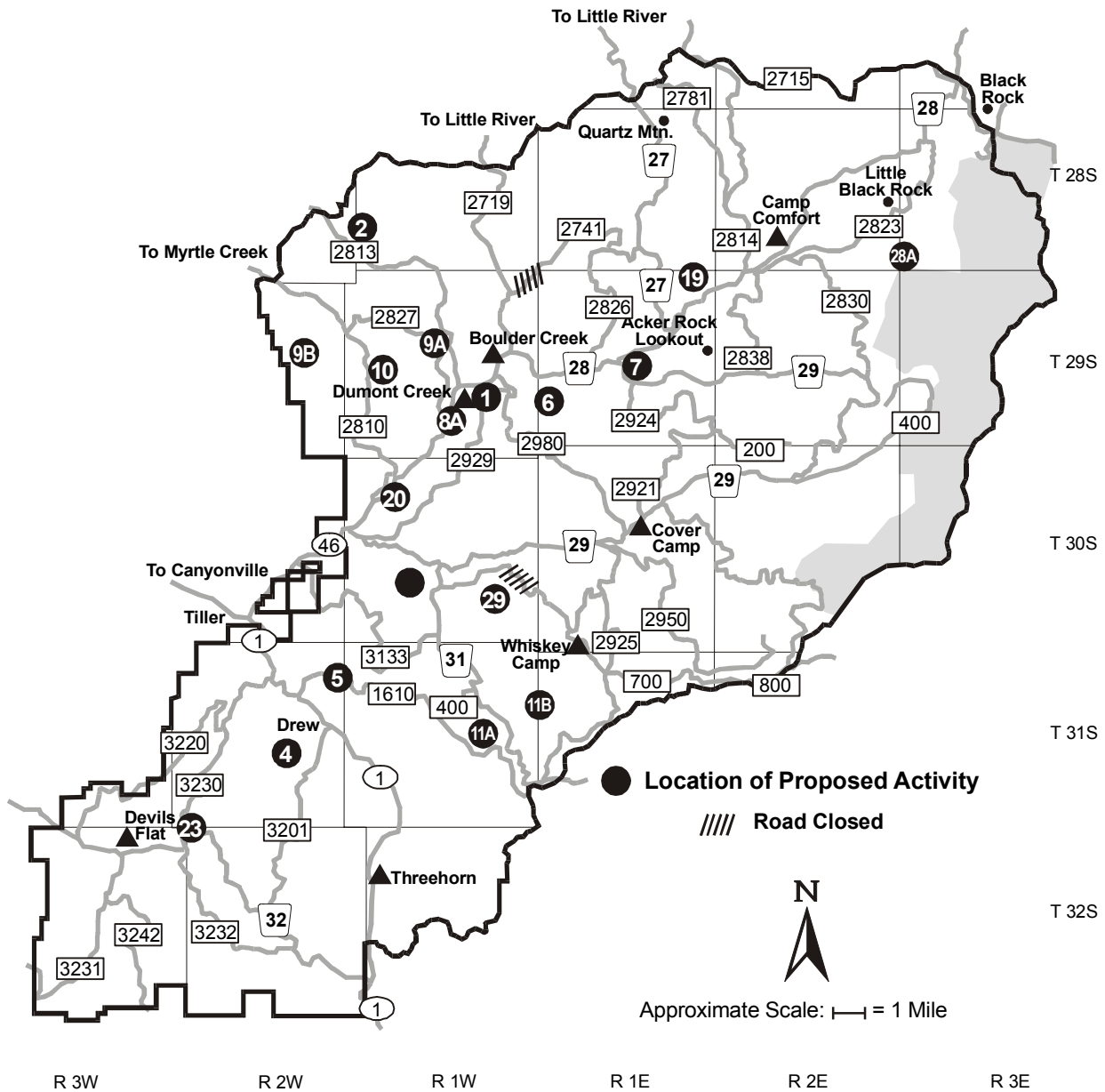
**Public Input:** The scoping period began with the mailing of the October 2002 Schedule of Proposed Actions.

**Status:** Project is ready to implement.

**Decision Date:** December 17, 2002 – Decision Memo.

**Contact Person:** Debbie Anderson

# Ranger District



# TILLER RANGER DISTRICT

## Range

### 4 Range Permit Reissuance

**Proposed Action:** Reissue term grazing permits reducing allowable cow/calf pairs from 670 to 216 on the three grazing allotments of Drew Creek, Diamond Rock, and Divide.

**Location:** These allotments on south end of the District.

**Public Input:** Scoping began August 1996.

**Status:** Public comment period ended July 2001 indicated a need to develop a new alternative. New alternative development in progress.

**Projected Decision Date:** March 2003

**Contact Person:** Wes Yamamoto

## Vegetation Management

### 3 Pickett Butte Lookout View Administration Site Maintenance

**Proposed Action:** Remove all trees from the original cleared area for the lookout that have ingrown, blocking the view for fire administration.

**Location:** T30S, R1W, Sec. 29.

**Public Input:** The scoping period began with the mailing of the October 2002 Schedule of Proposed Actions.

**Status:** NEPA document is being developed.

**Projected Decision Date:** April 2003

**Contact Person:** Emily Sands

### 5 Summit Timber Sale

**Proposed Action:** Commercial thin 823 acres utilizing group selection, thinning around large pines to maintain their health, and salvage treatments on Matrix land allocations. Fuels created by the treatments will be hand piled or the area underburned. In addition, prescribed burning is proposed for 112 acres of Matrix and Riparian Reserve land allocations on dry meadows and oak woodlands to maintain habitat diversity.

Under this proposal there would be 0.85 miles of road construction, 0.70 miles of reconstruction, 32.02 miles of road upgrades, 8.89 miles of road inactivation, and 2.85 miles of road obliteration.

**Location:** T.30S, R.2W; T.31S, R.2W; and T.31S, R.1W.

**Public Input:** The scoping period began with the mailing of the October 1997 Schedule of Proposed Actions.

**Status:** Consultation complete. Project requires more red tree vole surveys. Property boundary surveys will be completely redone in 2002-2003.

**Projected Decision Date:** Pending Rothstein II decision & NEPA rework.

**Contact Person:** Alan Baumann

### 8 Spam Timber Sale

**Proposed Action:** Harvest timber on 312 acres in the Spam Planning Area using partial cutting methods to meet ecological and pine health objectives. Fuels created by the treatments would be hand piled or the area underburned. In addition, prescribed burning would occur on approximately 20 acres of an oak woodland/meadow complex to maintain habitat diversity.

Other associated activities would include the expansion of an existing rock quarry, reconstruction/upgrade of 20.43 miles of system roads, 0.73 miles of road inactivation, and 2.07 miles of road obliteration.

These activities would occur on Matrix land, with no vegetation manipulation in Riparian Reserves.

**Location:** T29S and T30S, R1W and R2W.

**Public Input:** Scoping began with the mailing of the October 1997 Schedule of Proposed Action.

**Status:** NEPA package is being reworked. Work has been delayed due to Tiller Complex fires. Proposed Action remains the same.

**Projected Decision Date:** Pending Rothstein II decision.

**Contact Person:** Alan Baumann

## **10 2002-2012 Timber Stand Improvement (TSI)**

**Proposed Action:** A long-term program of work to improve the health and sustainability of young stands. Proposed treatments will include early stand thinning, vegetation competition release, and pruning. These TSI treatments would occur on approximately 9,000 acres of 10 to 18 year old stands over a 10-year period. Treatments will be scheduled as optimum conditions are reached in terms of tree size and stand density.

**Location:** Throughout the South Umpqua River watershed on Late-Successional Reserves, Riparian Reserves, and Matrix land allocations.

**Public Input:** Scoping is complete.

**Status:** Draft Categorical Exclusion is prepared. Work has been delayed due to Tiller Complex Fires. Some of the original proposed units may be dropped due to fire damage.

**Projected Decision Date:** March 2003.

**Contact Person:** Pauline Montgomery-Borg

## **Bridge Repair**

### **19 Quartz Creek Bridge Repair**

**Proposed Action:** Repair a bridge approach road fill being washed out by high water.

**Location:** T29S, R2E, Sec. 1.

**Public Input:** Scoping began October 1999.

**Status:** Preparing Environmental Assessment; need new engineering design due to emergency repairs made during fires in 2002.

**Projected Decision Date:** March 2002

**Contact Person:** Dean Kenyon

## **Water Transmission Lines**

### **20 Freeman Water Transmission Line**

**Proposed Action:** Evaluation of an application by a private landowner to transport water from National Forest System lands to private property.

**Location:** T30S, R1W, Sec. 4.

**Public Input:** Scoping began October 1999.

**Status:** Scoping.

**Projected Decision Date:** March 2002

**Contact Person:** Russ Groves

## **Recreation**

### **1 Dumont Creek Campground**

**Proposal:** Mitigate tree hazards associated with the presence of laminated root disease (*Phellinus weirrii*) in Dumont Creek Campground, an Administrative Site within Riparian Reserve. Proposed treatment includes felling of susceptible host trees (Douglas-fir and white fir) within the two disease pockets, plus a 50-foot buffer around each disease pocket. Other disease resistant conifers and hardwoods will be left. After treatment, proposed site rehabilitation and renovation activities include log moving, redesign of parking areas and family units, toilet replacement, and planting of disease resistant species.

**Location:** T29S, R1W, section 22.

**Public Input:** Scoping began in March 2002.

**Status:** Scoping

**Projected Decision Date:** May 2003.

**Contact Person:** Lori Depew



## **28A Rogue-Umpqua Divide Wilderness Trail Access Reconstruction**

**Proposal:** The proposal involves bringing ten trailheads up to standard by adding primitive toilets, information board/registration boxes, new trail signs, picnic tables, and horse facilities, such as hitching posts or high lines, as well as defining and improving parking and turnarounds for horse trailers. Trail segments from these trailheads leading into the wilderness will also be brought up to standard to eliminate erosion and resource damage.

**Location:** T. 28, 29, 30S, R. 2, 3, 4E

**Public Input:** Scoping began July 2001.

**Status:** Project Analysis.

**Projected Decision Date:** May 2003.

**Contact Person:** Lori Depew

## **Mining**

### **23 Red Hill Mine**

**Proposed Action:** Evaluation of the Plan of Operations submitted by the claimant for Red Hill Mine.

**Location:** T. 32S, R. 2W.

**Public Input:** Scoping began March 1998.

**Status:** Finalizing the E.A.

**Projected Decision Date:** March 2003

**Contact Person:** Russ Groves

## **Prescribed Burning**

### **29 North Beaver Prescribed Burn Plan**

**Proposed Action:** Reintroduce fire by prescribed underburning of approximately 200-300 acres. This would decrease fuel loading and kill understory trees and brush that would normally be killed and/or burned during naturally occurring wildfires. Some individual areas proposed for treatment have high fuel loading and ladder fuels such that pretreatment by manual slashing, handpiling, and burning is necessary to prevent the underburns from being excessively hot and destructive. The underburning will kill some standing green trees, a result consistent with natural fire processes. In some areas of heavy reproduction, this may necessitate another pile and burn treatment to further reduce fuel loading.

**Location:** T30S and T31S, R1W and R1E, within the Beaver Creek drainage North of Beaver Creek.

**Public Input:** Scoping began August 1997.

**Status:** Final surveys for red tree voles needed.

**Projected Decision Date:** March 2003

**Contact Person:** Kathy Minor or Emily Sands.

## **Projects Dropped From Consideration from the Previous Quarter**

### **6 Zinc Timber Sale**

**Proposed Action:** Commercial thin 465 acres on Matrix and Riparian Reserve land allocations using understory removal, thinning around large pines to maintain their health, and regeneration treatments. Fuels created by the treatments will be hand piled or the area underburned. Under this proposal there would be 0.48 miles of non-system road constructed and then obliterated after use, 1.15 miles reconstructed and obliterated after use, an additional 0.63 miles of road would be obliterated, 2.3 miles of road inactivated, and 17.62 miles of road drainage upgrades.

**Location:** T29S, R1W and T29S, R1E.

**Public Input:** The scoping period began with the mailing of the October 1997 Schedule of Proposed Actions. The 30-day comment period ended August 31, 1999.

**Status:** The District has dropped this project due to the need for NEPA rework and needed red tree vole survey work by contract climbing.

**Contact Person:** Alan Baumann

## **7 Bucky Timber Sale**

**Proposed Action:** Original Proposed Action is no longer entirely appropriate.

**Location:** Buckeye Creek drainage of the South Umpqua River. The area overlaps portions or all of T29S, R1E, Sec 13-15, and 22; and T29S, R2E, Sec 8, 17, and 18.

**Public Input:** Public involvement with this proposed action started with the October 1997 Schedule of Proposed Actions.

**Status:** Project is in the Tiller Complex Fire Area and will be analyzed with the fire recovery NEPA.

**Contact:** Alan Baumann

## **8A Middle South Umpqua Vegetation Management: Ash & Collins**

**Proposed Action:** Manage Collins Planning Area based on the objectives and desired future condition discussed in the Middle South Umpqua Landscape Analysis and Design. Activities such as timber harvest, timber stand improvement activities such as precommercial thinning of plantations, prescribed fire and fuels hazard reduction, road construction, road decommissioning, road drainage upgrades, road inactivation and closure, and noxious weed treatments are being considered. The Ash Creek Planning Area burned over in the Tiller Complex fires and is being dropped from consideration.

**Location:** Collins Planning Area is located in Francis Facial drainage. The area overlaps portions or all of T29S, R1W, Sec. 26, 27, 33-35, W.M.; and T30S, R1W, Sec 2-5, 7-11, and 17-18, W.M. Ash Creek Planning Area was located in the Ash Creek drainage and a portion of Zinc Creek Facial. The area overlaps portions or all of T28S, R1E, Sec 27-29, 32-34, W.M.; T29S, R1E, Sec 3-9, 16-18, W.M., and T29S, R1W, Sec. 13 and 14, W.M.

**Public Input:** Scoping is complete.

**Status:** The Ash Creek Planning Area was burned over in the Tiller Complex of fires. Both Ash and Collins proposals will be dropped and replaced by fire recovery work in the same areas.

**Contact Person:** Pauline Montgomery-Borg.

## **Projects with Decisions Made During the Previous Quarter**

### **2 Podunk Pond Wetland Restoration**

**Proposed Action:** Restore approximately 1 acre of ash (hardwoods) wetlands through drainage and reconfiguration of the pond bottom. Includes the removal of the non-native fish and non-native invasive weeds.

**Location:** T. 28S, R. 1W, Sec. 30

**Status:** Monitoring and analysis of the situation indicates the original decision (made March 5, 1997) did not meet the project's objective or purpose and need. The new decision selected the original preferred alternative.

**New Decision Date:** November 27, 2002.

**Contact:** Kris Rutledge

### **9A & 9B Off-site Pine Plantation Stand Management and Restoration Project**

**Proposed Action:** Develop and restore native plant communities now occupied by approximately 460 acres of off-site pine plantations. Vegetation management treatment activities such as variable-density thinning and removal of some of the dominant off-site ponderosa pine for density control, stand structure development and stand composition management are focused to decrease non-native plants and to increase stand heterogeneity. Underplanting of shade-tolerant species may also occur.

**Location:** T29S, R1W, Sec. 20, 26, 30, 32, 33, 34; T29S, R2W, Sec. 13.

**Public Input:** Scoping is complete.

**Status:** Decision selected the preferred alternative.

**Decision Date:** November 27, 2002.

**Contact:** Chris Rusch.

### **11A & 11B Fawn Helo Salvage Timber Sale**

**Proposed Action:** Harvest approximately 150 acres from blowdown that has occurred since 1995. All snags and green trees that are not safety hazards will be retained on site. Maintaining Forest standards for levels of down wood will be ensured. Fuels created by the treatments will be hand piles as needed. No new road construction will occur with this

project, but there will be 3.0 miles of resurfacing and 0.7 mile designated for drainage improvement. Proposal may include road inactivation or road obliteration. Proposal may also include 160 acres of precommercial thinning.

**Location:** T. 31S, R. 1W, Sections 13, 14, 23, 24, and 25, and T. 30S, R. 1E, Sections 18 and 19.

**Public Input:** The scoping period began with the mailing of the October 1996 Schedule of Proposed Actions and continued with the publication in the Tiller Times in February, 1997. A District Open House for this project was held February 1997.

**Status:** Consultation completed 1999; Biological Opinions issued 1998 and 1999.

**Decision Date:** Signed project is waiting the pending Rothstein II decision.

**Contact Person:** Alan Baumann

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) Should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call 202-720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.